

Follow OSHA Regulations

- OSHA standards are a basis for safe work practices. Complying with them could save your life.

Construction Standards CFR 29 Part 1926

Scaffolding - Subpart L, 1926.451
Portable Ladders - 1926.1053-.1060
Built up Roofing - 1926.500(g)
Fall Arrest Equipment - 1926.104
Fall Protection Standard - Subpart M

Stay Alert

- Always think first and don't take risks. Watch out for others on the job.

Train Your Workers

- Make sure that your employees know how to work safely at heights.

Additional Information

Contact the Massachusetts Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation Project (MA FACE) or the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

MA FACE Project

Occupational Health Surveillance Program
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 624-5627

OSHA Consultation Program

Massachusetts Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Division of Occupational Safety.
(617) 969-7177

OSHA Regional Office

JFK Federal Building- Room E340
Boston, MA 02144
(617) 565-9860

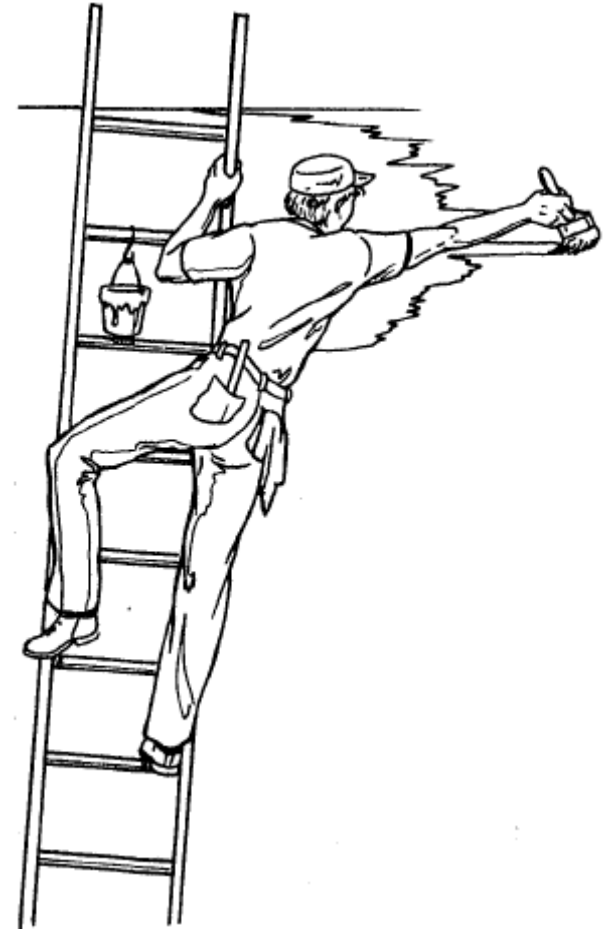
FACE is an occupational injury prevention project conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health; it is not responsible for the enforcement of safety standards. FACE investigates workplace fatalities with the aim of identifying risk factors that lead to fatal injury.

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FALLS

THE LEADING KILLER ON CONSTRUCTION SITES



Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation Project
(FACE)

Myths and Facts about Falls in Residential Construction

Myth 1: Residential contractors don't get injured as badly as commercial construction workers.

FACT: One third of all construction workers who have fallen to their death in Massachusetts worked in residential construction.

A 30 year old roofer was rolling tar paper on a new pitch roof of a 2 story Cape when he backed off the edge. He fell 24 feet to his death, and left behind a wife and children.

A 68 year old painter died after falling 10 feet from a small front porch of a 2 story home. The painter fell when he climbed down a step ladder and leaned into a rotted porch railing. He had painted homes for over 40 years.

Myth 2: You have to fall a long distance to kill yourself.

FACT: Half the construction workers who died in a fall fell from a height of 21 feet or less. If you hit your head hard enough, you can die at any height. Even if you survive a fall, you may be laid up for some time with a disability.

Myth 3: Experienced workers don't fall.

FACT: The average age of construction workers who have fallen to their death was 47. These men had many years of experience.

"It just happens so fast. It's when you think you're safe that you need to be more careful."

--Gene, Homebuilder

Myth 4: Working safely is costly.

FACT: Some equipment isn't costly, such as ladder stabilizers, guardrail holders, and fall protection kits. Other items such as scaffolds are more expensive. Invest in this equipment, just as you would a quality tool. .

"I fell three stories and was out of work for 8 weeks. I was subcontracting and didn't have comp. This was a long time ago, but I probably lost around \$5,000. A harness would have cost me \$50 back then."

--Dan, General Contractor

Myth 5: Fall Protection Equipment is more of a hindrance than a help

FACT: Nothing is more of a hindrance than a lifetime disability. Fall protection equipment is continually improving. New retractable lifelines allow for maximum flexibility. Roof anchors can be nailed into the structural members of wooden roofs.



FACT: Falls Can Be Prevented

Bring the right equipment to the job, and use it correctly.

